of these dialogues and need to sustain and broaden them was reaffirmed. Regional and international issues were also discussed. Chinese side conveyed that China sees its relations with India in a broader perspective and not only in the perspective of South Asia.

Clinton's remarks on Gujarat

3038. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the former US President Bill Clinton listed Gujarat as one of the world's trouble spots alongwith Rwanda and Palestine during the annual conference of the Labour Party in Blackpool; and

(b) if so, whether any diplomatic steps have been taken to dispel this wrong conception and that, in future, Government would keep in view that such an image is not allowed to be created by Indian Foreign delegations/political personalities visiting abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In his speech to the U.K. Labour Party Conference in October, 2002 Mr. Bill Clinton suggested, in the context of dealing with the current global challenges, that "we must want the same things for the children of Britain and America" as for the children of Cyprus, Rwanda, Colombia, the Middle East, Kashmir and Gujarat.

(b) Indian Missions and Posts abroad keep the Governments of their accreditation, the local media and other members of civil society fully briefed about the efforts made by Government of India to uphold secularism and protect and promote the fundamental rights of all its citizens.

MoU between India and Russia

3039. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia are set to sign an MoU that envisages joint operations against groups that pose a threat to their security;

(b) if so, the details of the MoU to be signed;

(c) whether the Home Ministries of the two countries would share intelligence under the new agreement which also provides for exchange of equipments; and

(d) if so, by when the MoU is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) During the visit of His Excellency Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to India from 3-5 December, 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism. This MoU was signed on 4 December, 2002. The MoU provides for cooperation between the two countries on exchange of information on terrorist groups and about possible terrorist acts, and also for cooperation directed towards prevention and investigation of terrorist acts. The two countries shall also cooperate and assist each other: i) in studying the causes, substance, structure, dynamics and manifestations of terrorism; ii) in exchanging relevant scientific and training materials, experts and trainees; iii) in organizing joint working meetings, workshops and seminars; iv) in identifying, preventing and suppressing the funding of persons and organizations involved in terrorist activities and v) in exercising control over the organizations involved in money laundering for the purposes of financing terrorism. Under this MoU, the two countries will set up a Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation shall be the nodal Ministries for this Working Group. The Working Group will also include representatives of other concerned Ministries and agencies of the two countries.

Project of Indian views by embassies

3040. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian Embassies abroad are not adequate to project Indian stand on various issues, such as foreign policy, Kashmir, terrorism and nuclear disarmament;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to project our stand effectively; and